

REMARKS - General

The examiner has deemed claims 47-58 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. More specifically, it was maintained that previous independent claim 28 and newer independent claim 47 bear a combination /subcombination relationship. Further, the combination recited in claim 47 was assessed as not requiring the particularities of subcombination for patentability because:

- i) it has structural features not present in initial claim 28 (inlet port means and inlet flow means), and
- ii) features of the subcombination described in claims 28 and 47 can be selected from different embodiments and species disclosed and are thus not necessarily identical.

The newly drafted claim 59 addresses these objections.

Absence of structural features not present in initial independent claim

New claim 59 recites the same functional elements as initial claim 28. Elaboration upon the initially-claimed flow control means is in concert with the functional clause of claim 28 which reads: "said flow control means prohibiting flow of fluid, such as air, working fluid, or skin treatment material, that would be deleterious to operation of said device."

Mitigation of the combination/subcombination relationship between prior and current independent claims

In view of the correlation between the set of elements in initial claim 28 and new claim 59, a combination/subcombination relationship between such claims is dismissed.

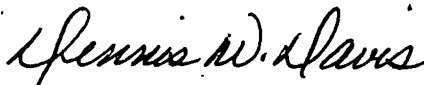
CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, applicants submit that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims define patentably over the prior art. Therefore they submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit.

Very respectfully,



Jeffrey L. Powers




Dennis W. Davis

David P. Thimm

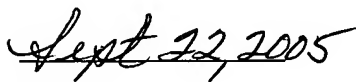


James M. Stenz

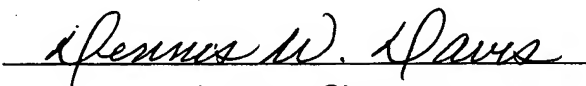


-----Applicants Pro Se-----

Certificate of Mailing. I certify that this correspondence, and attachments, if any, will be deposited with the United States Postal Service by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to "Box Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on the date below.



Date



Inventor Signature